GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:54
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
AFGHAN NATIONALS TRAVEL IN AIR INDIA FLIGHT WITHOUT TICKET
KAMAL NATH;M. JAGANNATH;MOHAN RAWALE;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;S. SAIDUZZAMAN;SHYAMA SINGH;UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `No Ticket, No Passport, No Problem`appearing in The Hindustan Times dated October 30, 2001;

(b) whether recently two Afghan Nationals have travelled by Air India flight AI-Illand reached London without any ticket, passport or visa;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether an enquiry has been ordered into this serious security lapse on the part of Air India officials;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith findings of the enquiry;

(f) the details of action taken against officials of Air India for this serious security lapse; and

(g) the further steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) :- Yes Sir. A High Level Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat has been constituted to enquire into the recent incident of stowaways in Air India`s flight AI-111, operating on the Mumbai-Delhi-London sector on 28.10.2001. The committee will complete its enquiry by 20th November, 2001. Four officers of Air India have been placed under suspension.

The following steps have been taken by Air India to ensure that such incidents do not reoccur in future :
(i) Providing of photographs of domestic passengers in the Boarding Card;
(ii) Different colour Boarding Card for domestic passengers;
(iii) Separate counters for domestic passengers;
(iv) Profiling of domestic passengers;
(v) Cabin crew will take head count;
(vi) Immigration officials to check transit flight.